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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/018,047

04/22/2002

Johannes Schellmann

98580P078

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07/11/2006

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EXAMINER

KRAMER, JAMES A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 07/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/018,047	Applicant(s) SCHELLMANN ET AL.	
	Examiner James A. Kramer	Art Unit 3627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 28-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 28-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 28-37 and 46-49 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hinkle.

Hinkle teaches *providing at least one ledger structure having a store structure for ordered storage of book data sets, each book data set being associated with a business transaction, the business transaction comprising data, the data concerning a business transaction including its type, time and values of the business transaction which are associate with this time and indicate changes, and associated with each business transaction are predetermined accounts in which the values of the business transaction should effect corresponding changes in account values, each book data set having associated with it a record identifier which unambiguously characterizes the ledger structure and the book data set in the ledger, and each book data set comprising an account identifier, the account identifier identifying at least two selected accounts which depend upon the type of business transaction, one of the at least two selected accounts being a book account with which the ledger structure is associated and the further of the at least two selected accounts being cross-accounts associated with the book account.*

Examiner notes the above teachings represent Applicant's first method step. This step is interpreted as providing a database (ledger structure having a store structure for ordered storage of book data sets). Hinkle meets this interpretation by "a collection of databases . . . there term database in the present context includes both the data therein as well as the database management functional elements and data structure definitions" (see column 6, lines 54-59).

Further Examiner notes that this limitation only requires "each book data set to comprise an account identifier, the account identifier identifying at least two selected accounts which depend upon the type of business transaction." Examiner notes that this represents a transaction which effects two accounts (e.g., debt to cash and credit to assets). Examiner notes Hinkle teaches this in the section that describes the three general categories of transactions that may be input into the invention of Hinkle (see column 8, line 33 through column 9, line 14). Specifically, Examiner references cash credits and debits for accounts.

Examiner also notes that Hinkle teaches each transaction includes a type (see for example column 16, lines 26-35), time (see for example column 19, lines 24-25) and value (for example see column 15, lines 62-65). Examiner also notes that all transaction effect a predetermined account (e.g. If a transaction includes cash, it effects the predetermined Cash account.) This is a fundamental principle of accounting and necessarily present in the invention of Hinkle.

Lastly Examiner notes that Hinkle teaches a general ledger table (see Fig 2B: number 88).

Hinkle further teaches *forming an account object for each account, each account object having an identifier data structure and a store structure for ordered storage of partial entry data*

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sets, each partial entry data set of the store structure containing the record identifier of a book data set associated with it as well as at least one value of a business transaction which should effect a corresponding change of account values. (see for example column 6, lines 30-67).

Examiner notes that sub-transactions are interpreted as Applicant's partial entry data sets. Further the database management system that stores the records of sub-transactions represents the account objects with identifier data structure and store structure for ordered storage of partial entry data sets.

Hinkle teaches *recording of data concerning the business transaction with a computer system having at least one processing unit, at least one storage unit, input means and output means and data communication means which couple the input and output means and the units of the computer system to one another* (see for example column 5, lines 20-30, column 6, lines 60-67, column 10, lines 336-50). Examiner notes sections cited clearly represent Hinkle's teaching of a computing device with a processor, storage and input/output means coupled to one another.

Hinkle teaches *the recording including: (a) selecting a ledger structure, account object of a book account with which the selected ledger structure is associated, and at least one account object of a cross-account as a function of the type of business transaction, and reading in of the data concerning the business transaction; (b) generating a book data set and at least two partial entry data sets from the read-in data and storing the book data set in order in the selected ledger structure; (c) sending the at least two partial entry data sets to the corresponding account objects of the book account and of the cross-account or the cross-accounts, the partial entry sets*

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containing the values of the business transaction which should contemporaneously effect corresponding changes of account values and (d) receiving the partial entry data sets in the account objects and storing the partial entry data sets in order in the corresponding store structure and reporting the data concerning the business transaction (see for example column 6, lines 30-59).

Once again Examiner notes that Hinkle's sub-transactions are interpreted as Applicant's partial entry data sets. Additionally, "execution of each sub-transaction" as taught by Hinkle represents reporting data concerning the business transaction.

Hinkle teaches varying time periods from a day to a week to a month to a year (see for example column 22, lines 1-20).

Hinkle teaches a sum value corresponding to a balance. Examiner notes that Hinkle need only teach one of the (i) – (v) steps as Applicant uses the alternative language.

Hinkle teaches sorted or indexed tables sorted or indexed by serial number (see for example column 22, lines 1-34).

Hinkle teaches a character sting that unambiguously denotes an account object (see for example column 7, lines 57-60 and column 16, lines 65-66).

Hinkle teaches wherein the identifier data structures of the account objects of the book accounts each contain an indication of the cross-accounts which can be associated with them and the cross-accounts are selected as a function of this indication (see for example column 10, lines 44-45). Examiner notes that data including sub-transaction decompositions represents an indication of cross-accounts which can be associated with account objects.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 38-45 and 50-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hinkle in view of Sampson.

Hinkle teaches all the claimed limitations except analysis diagrams which have positions with position values, wherein changes of account values effect changes of predetermined position values, wherein for at least one selected position of an analysis diagram an analysis object is formed which has an identifier data structure and at least one collective store structure, wherein the makeup of the collective store structure of the analysis object corresponds to the makeup of the collective store structure of an account object, wherein the collective store structure of the analysis object the addends are a predetermined function of those changes of

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account values which are effect on the basis of business transactions of which the time falls within the time interval, wherein the recording of the data of a business transaction the following steps are carried out:

- (e) generation of at least one update data set, which is determined for a selected position of an analysis diagram from the values of the business transaction contained in a partial entry data set, in at least one account object of those account objects which have received a partial entry data set, and sending of the update data set to at least one analysis object associated with the account object;
- (f) reception of the update data set in that at least one associated analysis object and updating of the collective store structure of the analysis object by adding up the addend formed from the values contained in the update data set in the data storage fields corresponding to the time of the appertaining business transaction.

Examiner notes that position and position values as defined by Applicant represents fields and field values (see Applicant's specification page 28 lines 1-2).

An analysis diagram as claimed by Applicant is taught by Sampson for example in figures 3 and 11. These figures show fields and field values used to analyze the data contained in the data set and account objects based on the predetermined time interval. Based on the value of the transaction of each entry in the fields (analysis diagram) the account objects are updated to represent a current balance (adding addends to the balance).

Sampson further teaches the analysis diagrams have positions of a lowest level with which predetermined collective store structures of predetermine account objects are associated, wherein as a function of an output command indicating an analysis time in a financial year a graphic output of an analysis diagram is generated via output means (see for example column 11, lines 44-56).

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Hinkle to include the analysis diagrams of Sampson in order to clearly denote field and field values (position and position values).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 28-54 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

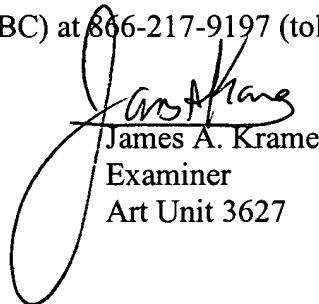
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A. Kramer whose telephone number is (571) 272 6783.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8AM - 5PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272 6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

 7/6/06
James A. Kramer
Examiner
Art Unit 3627

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6/5/06